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Choosing and Caring for Appliances

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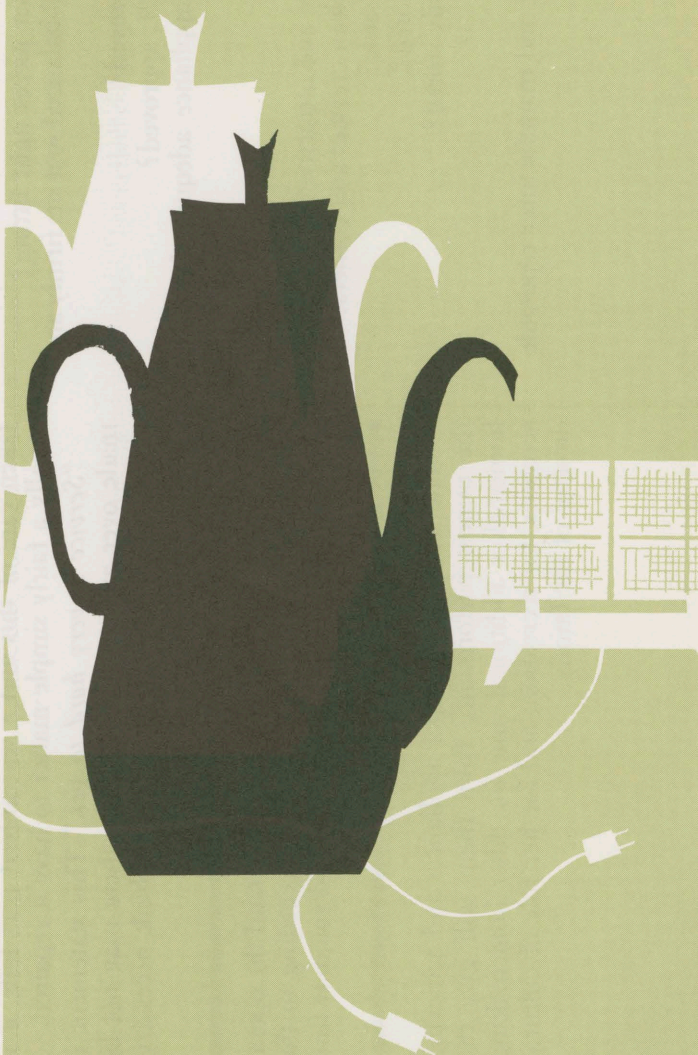
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***choosing and caring
for appliances***



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

choosing and caring for appliances

by CAROL JO THOMPSON,
extension home furnishings specialist

Can you afford to throw money away? Unwise purchase of portable appliances allows the homemaker to do just that! A decision of what to buy is something that must be tailored to the family concerned. Therefore, if you are buying for yourself consider your needs, and if you are buying a gift consider the needs of the recipient.

In considering needs answer the following questions:

1. Do we really need the appliance?
2. Will the appliance fully meet our need?
3. Will the appliance be used frequently?
4. Will the amount of use justify the cost involved?
5. Do we have adequate space for storing the appliance?
6. Is our home adequately wired for operation of the appliance?

Perhaps the most important of the above questions are *"do we really need," "will appliance be used frequently,"* and *"will use justify cost."*

After all of these considerations have been made, one must weigh a number of other items.

Construction

1. Is the material durable and well suited to its job?
2. Are the handles, legs, controls and trims made of heat resistant material?
3. Is the heating unit well insulated?
4. Are covers and other pieces tight fitting?
5. Is the appliance well-balanced so it sits firmly and doesn't easily tip?
6. Is the cord UL approved?
7. Is the power unit UL approved?
8. Is the size of the appliance adequate for your needs?

Design

1. Are the lines simple and attractive?
2. Are there hard to clean crevices and corners?
3. Is the appliance versatile?
4. Is the cord easily stored?
5. Is the appliance easily stored?

General

1. Are both the dealer and manufacturer reputable merchandisers?

2. Is service readily available?
3. Does the warrantee or guarantee cover the entire appliance — body, parts, motor, and cord?
4. Are there good instruction manuals for use and care of the appliance?
5. Which model available will be the best buy for your intended purposes?

After making your purchase, it becomes your responsibility to give your new appliance the best care possible. Reputable manufacturers prepare use and care manuals for specific appliances. It is your responsibility to obtain a complete demonstration of the appliance prior to making your purchase. After getting the appliance home, carefully read the operating instructions in the manual. Then follow them step by step. After mastering initial use, go through the booklet and follow other tips on use and care the manufacturer offers. You may discover a world of new ideas.

Keep the instruction manual filed (with the instruction manuals from all your other appliances) in an easy access area so you can refer to it as needed.

Do not neglect to send in the warrantee card provided by the manufacturer. If you fail to do so and something goes wrong with your appliance, the manufacturer is under no obligation. If you have taken care of this and a warranteed part fails, it is usually a fairly simple matter to have it repaired.

"Service is very hard to get." This statement is made over and over again. True, there may not be as many locations for service as we think necessary, but . . .

A clue to you is this: read and understand the operation of your appliance. Care for it according to the manufacturer's prescribed methods and you may find you need very little service.

The selection of proper appliances and achieving the utmost performance from them will give the homemaker additional time for other homemaking activities, for recreation, and for her role of cultural director of the family.

REMEMBER THESE POINTS . . .

1. Read the instruction booklet carefully.
2. Follow suggested program for use and care.
3. Do not connect appliances to extension cords.
4. Know how many watts the appliance uses and how much the circuit will take. (Example: A 120 volt circuit of 20 amps safely carries 2400 watts — $120 \times 20 = \text{Volts} \times \text{Amps} = \text{Watts}$)
5. Keep your appliance clean; allow appliances to cool before cleaning.
6. Before calling a serviceman, consult your use and care manual and check to see if the appliance is plugged in; if it is turned on; or if the fuse or circuit breaker is all right.
7. Disconnect an appliance by grasping the plug — do not pull the cord.
8. Attach labels to appliance cords and hang them in one location where possible. Do not wrap cords around appliances.

Cleaning instructions for specific finishes are found in EC 653 "Care of Metals and Kitchenware."

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